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Unit Set Up On Troops' 'Education'

Bendetsen Heads Study of Pentagon Anti-Red Teaching

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara yesterday appointed a 13-man committee of top Americans to study the Pentagon's troop education and anti-Communist indoctrination program and suggest improvements.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S.C.), who sponsored a Senate investigation of the military information program and alleged Administration "muzzling" of military leaders, called the action an admission of "shortcomings."

Karl R. Bendetsen, president of the Champion Paper Co. and Under Secretary of the Army in the Truman Ad-

Families of called-up Guardsmen and Reservists get letter of thanks from Defense Secretary McNamara. Page A10.

ministration, heads the new "advisory committee on non-military instruction." It will hold its first meeting at the Pentagon Jan. 20, and is expected to report by July 1.

A Senate Armed Services subcommittee headed by Sen. John B. Stennis (D-Miss.) will begin public hearings Jan. 23. The hearings stem from right-wing attacks on actions taken by the Kennedy Administration to curb military sponsorship of public seminars in which many American leaders were termed pro-Red.

Committee Goals Given

During the Eisenhower Administration, a "positive" anti-Communist troop indoctrination program was begun. In at least one command—Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker's 24th Infantry Division—ideas that many persons regarded as extreme, including, were

presented. In naming the Bendetsen committee, McNamara said that it will not "concern itself with what individual members of the armed forces may write or speak about."

The group will concern itself with the following: (1) What are the appropriate objectives and goals of the armed forces nonmilitary instruction programs; (2) what subjects should be taught; (3) how can the effectiveness of the programs be judged; (4) what changes might be made in the present assignments of responsibility for such instruction.

The Stennis subcommittee, of which Thurmond is a member, will deal with a wider field than the Pentagon advisory committee, going into the charges of "muzzling" of troop commanders and the seminar issue.

Thurmond called McNamara's establishment of the

committee a "standard bureaucratic response to publicized revelations of shortcomings." He said the facts about the situation were well known, but that the Pentagon has "diluted" the troop-education program in the past year to "de-emphasize training troops about the enemy."

Pentagon spokesmen said steps already have been taken to strengthen the troop program, including an increase in funds and preparation of several films showing the Communist danger.

A new 3-year program covers these subjects: Democracy and communism; World Affairs; Forces for Freedom (U.S. and allied armed forces); Citizenship and Voting; Orientation for Overseas Duty; and the Code of Conduct.

Other members of the Bendetsen committee include: Adm. Areligh A. Burke, USN, retired; James Phinney Baxter III, former Williams College president; Theodore W. Braun, president of Braun and Co., Los Angeles; Prof. Hardy Cross Dillard, University of Virginia; Allen W. Dulles, former Central Intelligence Agency Director; T. Keith Glennan, president of the Case Institute of Technology and former National Aeronautics and Space Administration chief; Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, president of the American Red Cross; Morris I. Leibman, Chicago attorney; Ralph E. McGill, Atlanta Constitution editor; the Rev. John Courtney Murray, S. J., Woodstock College, Md.; Thomas J. Watson, Jr., International Brotherhood of Machines Union chairman; and Gen. Thomas

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